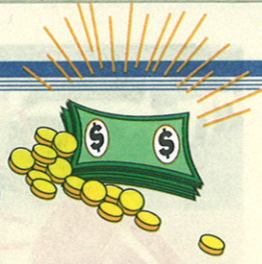


VEC Customers Share Board Directs Funds to Tornado Relief



The VEC Customers Share Board made a rare decision in March when they opted to direct all donations available for distribution to assist victims of the tornadoes that swept through the VEC service area on February 29 and again on March 2. The tornadoes that ripped through the area caused extensive damage.

"Like so many in the area, the VEC Customers Share Board wanted to pitch in to help those affected by these storms," said VEC Customers Share Board Chairman Carlton Norris who represents Hamilton County. "We are very grateful that so many VEC customers elect to participate in the program. Without their generosity, we would not have been able to offer this assistance."

VEC Customers Share funds are provided by VEC customers who allow their bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The difference between the actual bills and the rounded up amounts is placed into a fund that is distributed monthly to community agencies in the form of grants. Since October of 2001 when the program began, these grants have provided nearly \$3.8 million to local organizations. The grants are determined by an all-volunteer Board of Directors.

The VEC Customers Share Board has elected to distribute all available funds for a month to a single cause only three times before - once for tornado relief in Cumberland County, for flood relief in Rhea County, and last year for tornado relief in McMinn, Polk, Bradley and Hamilton counties.

The board directed \$33,000 to three different organizations who are heading up relief efforts in areas that were particularly hard hit by tornadoes.

A total of \$10,000 was directed to the Cumberland County Volunteer Organizations Aiding in Disaster (VOAD). An additional \$6,500 was directed to the Bradley County Long-Term Recovery Organization and \$16,500 was earmarked for the Salvation Army with \$6,500 to go to relief efforts in Polk County and \$10,000 to go to Hamilton County relief efforts.

VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins said VEC was happy to be able to help these organizations and expressed his appreciation for their efforts in assisting tornado victims.



Board and Staff:

The VEC Customers Share Board Members and VEC support staff include: Front row from left: VEC Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development Patty Hurley, VEC Customers Share Board Members Gloria Schouggins (Meigs County), Holly Neal (Cumberland County-East), and Joyce Callahan (Putnam County). Standing left to right: VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins; VEC Customers Share Board Members Jerry Stephens (Polk County), Pete Williams (Rhea County), Jim Purcell (Cumberland County-West), Carlton Norris (Chairman-Hamilton County), Doug Ford (McMinn County), Galen Rector (Pickett County), Harold Reno (Bradley County), and Alton Lingerfelf (Roane County). Not pictured: Jim Taylor (Fentress County).

Use Emergency Generators Carefully

You can use a portable emergency generator to supply electricity to your appliances if an emergency exists during a power outage. But, if used improperly, they can kill you and the people who are working to restore power. They can also damage the appliances you connect.

Home emergency generators are usually powered by gasoline, which must be properly handled as well.

Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a qualified, licensed electrician. **Before connecting the generator to your household circuit, notify your local VEC Customer Service Center.**

If you connect an emergency generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into Volunteer Energy Cooperative's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

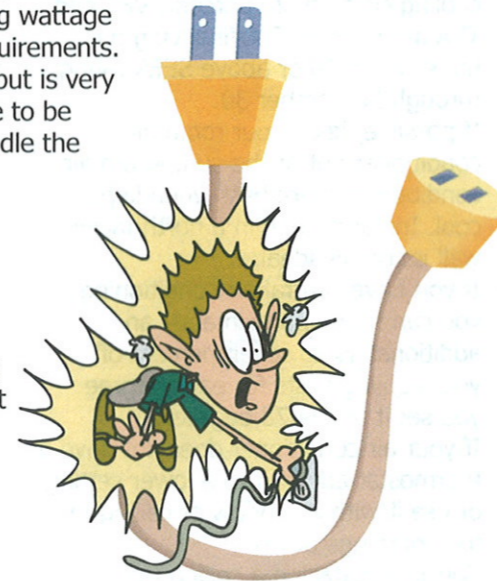
Determining Wattage Requirements

You must also never exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Overloading can cause serious damage to the generator or appliances. Before operating a generator, list all of the appliances that are going to operate at the same time. Then determine the starting wattage requirements and the running wattage requirements. The starting load lasts only a few second, but is very important when figuring your total wattage to be used. Your generator must be rated to handle the total wattage.

Extension Cords

When using an appliance or tool at a considerable distance from the generator, a 3-wire extension cord that has a 3-prong grounding plug and a 3-slot receptacle that accepts the tool's plug should be used. A cord of adequate size must be used.

Under no circumstances should an extension cord be run from one house to another.



Project Deserve Helps Those In Need



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

I'm sure you are aware of the difficult times many VEC customers are facing. Higher electric costs, more severe temperatures, and an uncertain economic future are creating hardships for many people.

VEC's Project Deserve program provides temporary electric bill assistance to families in tight financial situations. It is not designed as a long-term solution; families can only receive Project Deserve funds once per year. Funds come from VEC customers who participate with voluntary contributions added to their power bill each month.

Project Deserve funds are very limited; we currently collect less than \$800 each month through about 400 voluntary contributions to this program system-wide. Of the total amount collected, VEC employees, retirees, and board members contribute a full 15% of the total collected each month, with an average monthly contribution of \$2.17. I believe our VEC family is so generous because we talk with people who need this help every day and we know how great the needs are.

If you are currently contributing to Project Deserve, thank you. If you do not contribute, please consider doing so. A small donation can make a big difference in someone's life.

Phone your local VEC Customer Service Center to sign up.

VEC Wins Beautification Award

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Cleveland Customer Service Center was recently awarded the Keep America Beautiful Business Beautification Award by the Keep America Beautiful Neighborhood Committee.



Joanne Maskew, W.W. Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Shari Horton, and Ron Braam presented the award to VEC's Cleveland Service Area Manager John Selvidge on April 11th.

Accepting the award for VEC were: From Left, Jennifer Hughes, Thelma Mason, Suteka Brice-Allen, Missie Neal, Debbie Mullis, and John Selvidge.

VEC GIVE-A-WAY

Submit your favorite recipes at www.vec.org and receive a free copy of

"Great Recipes from Tennessee" cookbook

while supplies last



Walker Valley Juniors Attend Youth Leadership Summit

Kyle Davidson and Meeri Shin of Walker Valley High School in Bradley County were among 46 high school juniors representing 23 electric cooperatives across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 26-28 in downtown Nashville. Shin is the daughter of Inho and Soonja Shin and Davidson is the son of Lara of Todd Davidson. Both were sponsored by VEC.

"The Youth Leadership Summit teaches these exceptional students how important electric cooperatives are to Tennessee's rural communities and provides them an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol," said Todd Blocker, TECA director of member relations. "Local electric cooperatives, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving young leaders to attend the summit based on their interest in government and strong leadership abilities."

Meeri and Kyle are fine examples of the future leaders we're raising in our local communities," said VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins. "We are pleased to provide motivated students with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit began Monday evening, March 26, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. Get-acquainted and leadership-development activities followed, led by cooperative employees.

Students rose early on Tuesday, March 27, for breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza to meet their state legislators and sit in on House and Senate committee meetings. TECA Director of Government Affairs Mike Knotts introduced Rep. Andy Holt of Dresden, who welcomed the students to Nashville and answered their questions about legislative issues. The 11th-graders then toured the Capitol and saw state government in action at the committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the state historic building. Davidson and Shin met with their State Senator Mike Bell and also had an opportunity to chat with other members of the Tennessee State Legislature.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. The fun continued with dinner and games at Dave & Buster's and the busy day was capped off by special guest speakers 2011 Miss Tennessee Erin Hatley and Stephanie Armstrong, team captain of the Tennessee Titan's cheerleaders.



Kyle Davidson and Meeri Shin of Walker Valley High School in Bradley County were this year's VEC representatives at the TECA Youth Leadership Summit.



Kyle Davidson and Meeri Shin chat with State Senator Mike Bell on the Legislative Plaza at Tennessee's Capitol Building.

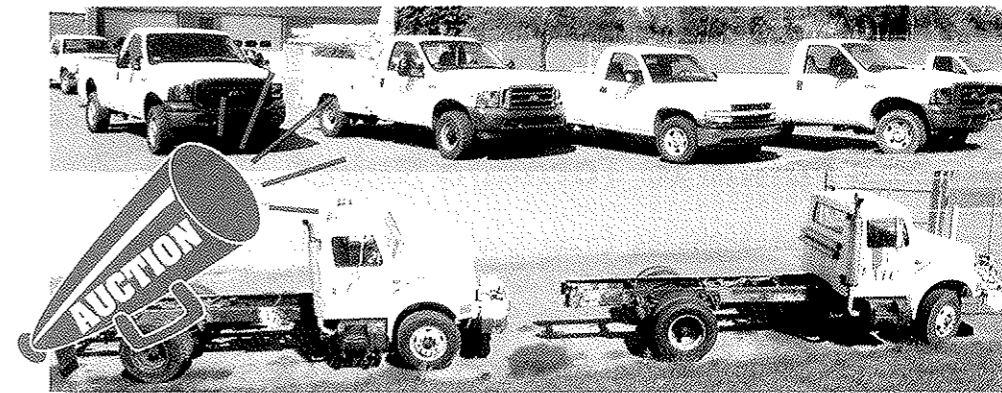
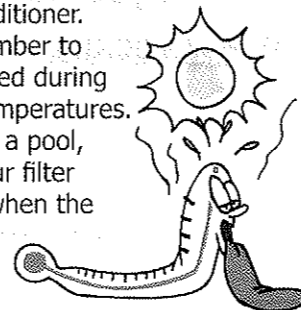
Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the vital role co-ops play in the communities they serve. Students were divided into teams and competed in "W.A.V.E." (Working Alongside and Valuing Everyone), an interactive game in which they formed their own co-ops and worked together to "buy" and "sell" power distribution supplies – power poles, wire, transformers, meters and trucks. Then they got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives during "All for One and One for All." Finally, they put together all they learned, answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition.

"In the not-too-distant future, these students will be our community leaders – and electric cooperative member-owners," said Blevins. "We want them to see what makes their electric cooperative special, appreciate all their co-op provides for their communities and understand why it was so important to form electric co-ops in the first place."

Temperatures Are Rising – But Your Electric Bill Doesn't Have To

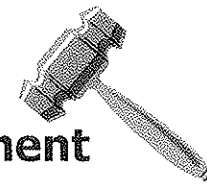
The following tips will save you energy and help your budget during warmer weather.

- Replacing your old central air conditioner with a new *energy right*® qualified model can reduce your cooling costs by 20 percent. VEC and TVA are offering 6% financing on units with a 14 or above SEER rating through September 30.
- If possible, keep your room air conditioner out of the sun. Room air conditioners work best when kept cool. Installing one in a north-facing wall is usually ideal.
- If you have central air conditioning, you can save approximately an additional six to seven percent off your cooling costs for each degree you set it above 78 degrees.
- If your air conditioner does not have a thermostat adjust it to a lower setting or use it with a window or ceiling fan to cool things down.
- Consider installing a ceiling fan.
- During hot weather a ceiling fan will create a cool breeze and keep the air circulating in your home.
- Get rid of hot air. Use an exhaust fan to blow hot air out of your kitchen while you're cooking. The savings on your cooling costs far outweigh the electricity used by the fan. Also, take lukewarm showers and baths to avoid humid air, which holds more heat.
- A dehumidifier can add substantially to your electric bill. Make sure you have the appropriate-sized dehumidifier for your home.
- Close blinds, drapes and shades during the hottest part of the day. This keeps the strong sunlight from heating your home.
- Use your microwave or countertop appliances for cooking instead of the oven or stove.
- What says "summer" better than burgers and hot dogs? Instead of using your oven or stove which can generate heat on an already hot day, fire up the outdoor grill for cooking.
- Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save money on your electricity bill. If you have children in the house, this is also a good safety measure.
- Install compact fluorescent light bulbs in your most-used fixtures and lamps. Fluorescent bulbs put out less heat, plus you'll save \$30 to \$40 in energy costs over the life of each bulb.
- Check your heating and cooling system to make sure it is operating at peak efficiency.
- Postpone laundry and dishwashing until nighttime to avoid generating extra heat in your home. Also, consider taking advantage of the warmer air and dry your laundry outside.
- Don't forget about your own energy. Wearing lighter clothing can help cool you down without turning on the air conditioner. Also, remember to stay hydrated during extreme temperatures.
- If you have a pool, turn off your filter overnight when the pool is not in use.



Volunteer Energy Cooperative will offer these and other surplus vehicles and equipment for absolute auction on Saturday, June 23rd.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative to Auction Surplus Vehicles, Equipment



Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) will sell surplus vehicles and equipment at absolute auction on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at VEC's Decatur Customer Service Center on Highway 58 North in Decatur.

The sale is slated to begin at 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time. All vehicles purchased must be paid for on the day of the sale by cash or check. The vehicles will be available for inspection from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 22 and from 8 a.m. until the sale on Saturday, June 23rd.

The auction will be conducted by Big I Auctions, TAL 992; TFL 397.

A partial list of vehicles to be auctioned (subject to change without notice) follows:

2004 Chevy Blazer 4 door, 4WD, 4.3 Liter V6, 4 Spd Auto Trans; **2003 Chevy Silverado** 1500 4WD, Reg Cab Pick Up, Vortec 4300 V6, 4-Spd Automatic Trans, SWB; **2002 Chevy Silverado** 1500 4WD, Reg Cab Pick Up, Vortec 4300 V6, 4-Spd Automatic Trans, SWB; **2002 Chevy Silverado** 1500 4WD Reg Cab Pick Up, Vortec 4300 V6, 4-Spd Automatic Trans, SWB; **2001 Chevy Silverado** 1500 4WD, Reg Cab Pick Up, Vortec 4300 V6, 4-Spd Automatic Trans, SWB; **2001 Ford SD F250** 4WD, Reg Cab with Utility body, 5.4L V-8, 4-Spd Auto Trans, GVWR 8800 lb; **2003 Chevy Silverado** 2500HD 4WD, Reg Cab with utility body, Vortec 6000 V-8, HD 4-Spd Auto Trans, GVWR 9,200 lbs; **2006 Ford SD F250** 4WD, Reg Cab, Pick Up Body, 5.4L V-8, 5-Spd Auto Trans, GVWR 9000 lbs; **2006 Ford SD F250** 4WD, Reg Cab, Pick Up Body, 5.4L V-8, 5-Spd Auto Trans, GVWR 9000 lbs; **2006 Ford SD F250** 4WD, Reg Cab, Pick Up Body, 5.4L V-8, 5-Spd Auto Trans, GVWR 9000 lbs; **1995 International** 4900 4 x 2, DT466, GVWR 46,000, Cab & Chassis; **1995 International** 4900 4 x 2 DT466, GVWR 33,000, Cab & Chassis, PTO Driven, Under Deck, 160 CFM, Air Compressor; **1995 International** 4900 4 x 2, DT466, GVWR 33,000, Cab & Chassis; **1991 International** 4900 4 x 2, DT466, GVWR 31,000

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective May 1, 2012

2.504¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

